



**TOWN OF COLMA  
MUNICIPAL CODE**

**CHAPTER FIVE: PLANNING, ZONING, USE, DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS**

**Subchapter Three: Restrictions**

**5.03.350 Restrictions Applicable to All Zones.**

(a) There shall not be permitted any use which may be determined by the City Council to be obnoxious or offensive because of the presence or emission of odor, fumes, dust, gas, smoke, noise, bright lights, vibrations, pollution, detrimental sewer wastes, or have a detrimental effect on permissible adjacent uses, or will be hazardous by reason of danger of fire or explosion.

(b) In each zone there shall be provided at the time of the erection of any main building or at the time any main building is enlarged or increased in capacity, sufficient off-street parking accommodations with adequate provisions for ingress and egress by standard size automobiles. Parking access-ways, parking spaces and fire lanes shall all meet the minimum standards provided in Section 5.01.080 (Definitions) above.

(c) The following uses are prohibited in all districts: amusement parks or centers, circuses, carnivals, outdoor theaters, race tracks, commercial recreation centers, stockyards, the slaughtering of animals, and medical marijuana dispensaries.

(d) Definition of "self-storage mini-warehouse": a structure containing more than five (5) individually locked rooms or compartments, each of which rooms or compartments are available for rent to the general public on a daily, weekly, monthly or other periodic basis for the purpose of storing chattel or personal property, where the property stored in the rooms or compartments is loaded and removed by the renter of the compartment, rather than by the owner of the self-storage mini-warehouse or his agent. "Self-storage mini-warehouse" does not include storage space made available on a rental basis to renters of apartments or owners of condominiums on the premises which contains the condominium or apartment building.

(e) No person shall install, construct or maintain a fence or hedge on any property in the Town of Colma except in compliance with the following:

(1) General fence and hedge limitations:

(A) If cyclone fencing is used, it must be black vinyl clad with black painted posts and supports.

(B) Fences shall be maintained in good repair and condition.

(C) Hedge height limits in this section do not apply to taller landscaping planted immediately adjacent to building walls. Free standing trees are encouraged in all yard areas.

(D) Fences with razor wire are not permitted in the Town of Colma.

(E) For corner lots, a vision triangle of 35' shall be maintained to insure safe visibility for motorists. The vision triangle shall be created by measuring along the curb line 35' in each direction from the street corner, with the endpoints connected across the lot. Within the vision triangle, no fencing or vegetation shall exceed three (3) feet in height and all tree canopies must be kept seven (7) or more feet above grade.

- (F) Any unimproved right-of-way (the area between the back of sidewalk and the front property line of any property) may contain landscape planting, irrigation and fencing.
  - (G) The height of a fence shall be measured as the higher of the two sides of the fence.
- (2) Fence and hedge limitations in all Residential Zones:
- (A) No fence or hedge in excess of four (4) feet in height is allowed between the back of the sidewalk and front wall of any residence. An exception is permitted for a single, freestanding trellis structure not exceeding eight (8) feet in height, five (5) feet in width, and five (5) feet in depth. An exception may be granted by the City Planner through the Design Review Process if required for security, pedestrian safety, to screen out undesirable views, or for other aesthetic reasons.
  - (B) No fence or hedge in excess of six (6) feet in height is allowed from the front face of the residence to the rear property line. An exception may be granted by the City Planner through the Design Review Process if required for security, pedestrian safety, to screen out undesirable views, or for other aesthetic reasons.
  - (C) No barbed wire shall be permitted in a residential zone.
- (3) Fence and hedge limitations for Non-Residential Zones:
- (A) No fence or hedge in excess of four (4) feet in height is allowed between the back of the sidewalk and a parallel line set back thirty (30) feet from the front property line. An exception may be granted by the City Planner through the Design Review Process if required for security, pedestrian safety, to screen out undesirable views, or for other aesthetic reasons.
  - (B) No fence or hedge in excess of eight (8) feet in height is allowed from the thirty (30) foot setback line to the rear of the property. An exception may be granted by the City Planner through the Design Review Process if required for security, pedestrian safety, to screen out undesirable views, or for other aesthetic reasons.
  - (C) No barbed wire shall be permitted in front of the thirty (30) foot setback line. An exception may be granted by the City Planner through the Design Review Process if required for security.
- (4) Prior constructing or installing a fence in excess of six feet in height, retaining wall exceeding two (2) feet in height, masonry wall, or any improvement located in the public right-of-way, owners and occupants should consult with the Building Official or City Engineer to determine if a building permit and/or encroachment permit is needed.

[History: formerly § 5.336, ORD. 234, 03/14/79; ORD. 313, 02/13/85; ORD. 550, 4/14/1999; ORD. 638, 12/14/05, ORD 662, 9/12/07]

#### **5.03.360 Restrictions and Landscaping Along El Camino Real.**

- (a) No building shall be located less than thirty (30) feet from any portion of El Camino Real to any portion of the building.
- (b) Within the required setback from El Camino Real there shall be maintained only paved walks, paved driveways, lawns and landscaping. The landscaping shall be consistent with landscaping in the surrounding areas. and shall screen parking areas from passersby on El

Camino Real. The City Council may, as a condition of any Use Permit, require a landscaping plan for the area within the required setback.

(c) The restrictions apply to property adjacent to El Camino Real the entire length of said street from the northern boundary of Colma to the Mission Road junction.

[N.B. Section 2 of Ordinance No. 270 (effective 7/9/82) provided as follows: "The requirements of this section shall not be construed to require the removal or other changes or alteration of any structure not conforming thereto as of the effective date hereof or otherwise interfere with the continuance of any non-conforming use; but shall apply to any replacement, addition, or substantial alteration of any such non-conforming structure."]

[History: formerly § 5.336.1; ORD. 270, 6/09/82; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

#### **5.03.370 Restrictions Applicable to Mobile Homes, Recreational Vehicles and Commercial Coaches.**

Mobile homes, recreational vehicles and commercial coaches as defined in the Health and Safety Code of the State of California shall not be occupied in the Town of Colma except as follows:

(a) For temporary use as a field office or a business office during construction, alteration or repair of a project in the Town of Colma, provided that such use shall cease when the Certificate of Occupancy for such project is issued;

(b) For use as an office in connection with a commercial use, and pursuant to a conditional use permit issued by the City Council under section 18300.1 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California; or

(c) Use a single-family dwelling where the mobile home complies with all of the restrictions applicable to a "R" Zone, including, but not limited to, the restrictions set forth in section 5.03.250 of the Colma Municipal Code.

[History: formerly § 5.337; ORD. 244, 11/14/79; ORD. 280, 01/12/83; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

#### **5.03.380 Restrictions Applicable to Dumps.**

No person may hereafter use any land in the Town of Colma for disposal of solid wastes, except as follows:

(a) As to any disposal site being operated as a private dump on December 10, 1980, pursuant to a use permit from the Planning Commission of the Town of Colma, the operator of such dump or the owner of the land may use such land for disposal of solid wastes until December 31, 2010, or until termination (other than a revision, modification or amendment of

an existing permit or the replacement of an existing permit with a new and different permit) of the Solid Waste Permit from the State Solid Waste Management Board, whichever date is earlier, as a non-conforming use.

(b) As to any disposal site being operated as a public dump on December 10, 1980 pursuant to a use permit from the Planning Commission of the Town of Colma, the operator of such dump, or the owner of the land, may use such land for disposal of solid wastes until December 31, 1982, or until termination (other than a revision, modification or amendment of an existing permit or the placement of an existing permit with a new and different permit) of the Solid Waste Permit from the State Solid Waste Management Board, whichever date is earlier, as a nonconforming use. The expiration date specified in this subsection (2) shall be extended until December 31, 1983, pursuant to the following procedure:

(1) The operator shall file a written application therefore with the City Clerk after January 1, 1982 and prior to July 1, 1982, specifying the reasons for the application;

(2) The City Council shall conduct a public hearing on said application within sixty (60) days thereafter and shall approve the application upon presentation of substantial evidence by the operator showing that good cause exists for such extension and that such dump is not then being operated in violation of any ordinance, law or regulation.

[History: formerly § 5.338; ORD. 257,2/11/81; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]